

**Subject: *Bearing Spiritual Fruit – MEEKNESS***

**Scripture: *Galatians 5:22-23***

The New Testament word translated “gentleness, meekness” (Gk., *prautes*) is a character quality that the world does not value or desire. The world thinks of meekness as weakness. Since the world thinks very little of meekness, it shouldn’t surprise us to know that meekness is very important to God and a vital part of Christian character.

### **1. What is meekness?**

Meekness (gentleness) is the quality of someone who is submissive to God’s will, humble, teachable, and considerate toward others. It is the opposite of pride and arrogance. The Bible says of Moses in Numbers 12:3, “Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.”

Of While He lived on earth Jesus was meek and we are to be like Him. Remember that the fruit of the Spirit is Christlike character. Meekness does not mean weakness. Christ was meek, but He was certainly not weak. Meekness is power under control. W. E. Vine says that the meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power. The word “meek” was used to describe a horse that had been broken and made useful. The horse still had the same power, but his power was brought under control.

### **2. Where can we find meekness?**

#### **A. Meekness is in God the Father**

*Isaiah 40:10-11* <sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. <sup>11</sup> He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

#### **B. Meekness is in the Lord Jesus Christ**

*Matthew 11:28-30* <sup>28</sup> Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

This is the only place in Scripture where Christ described Himself.

*Matthew 12:20* A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

*Matthew 21:5* Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your King is coming to you, meek, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

This was an exact quotation from Zechariah 9:9, a prophecy of the Messiah.

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth about the meekness and gentleness of Christ (2 Cor. 10:1).

#### **C. Meekness is a quality in all of God’s children**

***Psalms 25:9** The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.*

***Matthew 5:5** Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

***Ephesians 4:1-2** <sup>1</sup> I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, <sup>2</sup> With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.*

***Colossians 3:12** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering*

Years ago a man named Rusty Clark came to know the Lord and he said, “Bro. Stan, when the Lord saves you, there’s a humbleness in your heart.” You couldn’t say it any better. Meekness is a part of the fruit in every true believer. It’s not optional; it’s essential.

### **3. Why is meekness so important?**

#### **A. Meekness is a mark of godly wisdom**

***James 3:13-15** <sup>13</sup> Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.*

There is a big difference between a wise person and a wise guy. A wise person is meek and humble, but a wise guy is proud and arrogant. A wise person admits that his knowledge is limited, but a wise guy thinks he knows it all. A wise guy thinks he knows so much. A wise person realizes he knows so little. A wise person is teachable and wants more wisdom. A wise guy is unteachable and wiser than others.

#### **B. Meekness is needed in ministering to others**

***Galatians 6:1** Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

***1 Thessalonians 2:7** But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children.*

***1 Timothy 6:11** But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

***Titus 3:2** To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men.*

#### **C. Meekness is essential in teaching and witnessing**

***2 Timothy 2:24-25** <sup>24</sup> And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup> In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.*

***1 Peter 3:15** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*

#### **D. Meekness is important in marriage and home life**

***1 Peter 3:1-4** <sup>1</sup> Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; <sup>2</sup> While*

*they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. <sup>3</sup> Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; <sup>4</sup> But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*

#### **4. How can you grow in the fruit of meekness?**

##### **A. Come to Christ and learn from Him**

That's what it means to be His disciple. As you read the Gospels, notice how Christ dealt with people and follow His example.

***Matthew 11:28-29** <sup>28</sup> Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

One of Christ's greatest lessons on meekness and humility was near the end of His earthly ministry when He washed the disciples' feet, something that common household servants did. Elisabeth Eliot commented on that, "Does God ask us to do what is beneath us? This question will never trouble us again if we consider the Lord of heaven taking a towel and washing feet."

##### **B. Submit to God and His Word**

***James 1:21** ...receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls.* That verse in its context is speaking of the power of God's word to sanctify or make us holy. The Word of God will do its work if we are teachable, humble, and submitted to it.

##### **C. Submit to others and respect them**

Make others feel comfortable in your presence. Be approachable and reasonable, not rigid and demanding. Be thoughtful and considerate.

##### **D. Ask those who know you best how you come across to others**

If you're hesitant to ask, it may be that you're afraid of what they might say.

##### **E. Ask God to make you a servant for His glory**

Listen to the words of this good song in our hymnbook, "Make me a servant, humble and meek; Lord, let me lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be: Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today."